

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document(s).

The Office action restricts the invention to either the "species of claim 1" were the "species of claim 2." In response, applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to prosecute the "species of claim 1." At least claims 1, 3, and 4 are believed to belong to the same elected species as claim 1. Claim 4 is a generic and/or linking claim. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of any non-elected claim(s) in a divisional or other continuing application.

Applicants' traversal is based at least on the fact that the methods of claims 1 and 2 are so closely related that searching both at once would not impose an undue burden on the Examiner.

MPEP § 803 - Restriction - When Proper

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

New claim 4 is added. No new matter is added.

Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of the application on its merits are now respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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